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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Poland and Ukraine: revised draft resolution

Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization shall promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that all Member States pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the above-mentioned purposes,

Recalling also that the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community,

Considering that it is essential, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights, to develop more effective coordination among the United Nations organs and bodies in the field of human rights, between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and among the specialized agencies themselves, and to provide ways and means for such coordination,

Taking into consideration the specific methods and character of the activities of each of the United Nations organs and bodies and the specialized agencies in the sphere of human rights, which are determined by their statutory objectives, their mandates and the provisions of the relevant international instruments,

Expressing its belief that the activities of each of these organs and bodies and specialized agencies make a significant contribution to the functioning of the international machinery for implementation, reporting and monitoring the protection and promotion of human rights,

Taking note of the provisions of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies governing the transmission of reports,

Welcoming the creation of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with the principal responsibility for the United Nations human rights activities,

Emphasizing the importance of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, in particular the recommendations that all United Nations organs and bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights cooperate in order to strengthen, rationalize and streamline their activities, that high-level officials of relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies at their annual meetings, besides coordinating their activities, also assess the impact of their strategies and policies on the enjoyment of all human rights and that organs and specialized agencies related to human rights should further enhance the coordination of their activities on the basis of the consistent and objective application of international human rights instruments,

1. Encourages the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate human rights activities of the United Nations system in accordance with his mandate, notably as outlined in paragraphs 4 (e), (h) and (i) of General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, in particular by establishing a permanent dialogue with the organizations of the United Nations system to promote human rights through a systematic and periodic exchange of information, experience and expertise and through periodic discussion of the relevant issues in the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

2. Requests the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat:

(a) To increase its coordination capability by establishing within the Centre for Human Rights a capacity to prepare and follow up the substantive and administrative aspects of the coordination and assessment activities set out above;

1/ World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

(b) To deepen its dialogue and promote the undertaking of joint studies and the provision of advisory services and technical assistance, in collaboration with the United Nations organs and bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regarding the mutually reinforcing interrelationship between development, democracy and human rights;

3. Calls upon Member States to pursue coordinated policies in support of full cooperation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of human rights;

4. Requests the relevant United Nations organs, bodies and specialized agencies, within the terms of their mandates to develop concepts, policies and collaborative mechanisms, and to undertake coordinated activities which serve to promote and enhance the enjoyment of human rights;

5. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with his mandate and in consultation with Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to make recommendations on the strengthening of the coordination within the United Nations system;

6. Decides to consider the question of increased coordination in the field of human rights within the United Nations system at its fiftieth session as a sub-item under the item entitled "Human rights questions".